

DEC 08 2006

PATENT

Docket No. 275.00080101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): GANAPATHY et al.) Group Art Unit: 1646
Serial No.: 10/718,359) Examiner: Michael D. Pak
Confirmation No.: 3660)

Filed: November 20, 2003)

For: NaCT AS A TARGET FOR LIFESPAN EXPANSION AND WEIGHT REDUCTION

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed October 10, 2006, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group II (claims 36-50), drawn to an isolated polypeptide, and SEQ ID NO:6, the human polypeptide sequence. Applicants' Representatives reserve the right to pursue examination of the non-elected claims in continuation or divisional applications. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restrictions in this case and submit that the inventions as claimed can be readily evaluated in one search without placing undue burden on the Examiner. Applicants submit that amended claims 12, 13, 20, 27, and 28, and new claims 78-83, drawn to polypeptides, belong to the invention of Group II. The examination of claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 27, 28, and 78-83 along with the claims of Group II is respectfully requested.

Claims 57-59, 76, and 77 are directed to methods for using the product of elected Group II. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Official Gazette notice dated March 26, 1996 (1184 O.G. 86), upon identification of an allowable product claim, withdrawal of the restriction requirement as it relates to claims 57-59, 76, and 77, and the rejoinder and examination of claims 57-59, 76, and 77 is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if there are any questions regarding this Response or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on this 8 day of Dec., 2006, at 3:20 pm (Central Time).

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Respectfully submitted

By

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NAJ/SJT